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Intergenerational Care

Mullins- Marion County, like the rest of the nation, is facing twin and increasing demands for care, as it concerns loved ones on both sides of the age spectrum. The incidents of working families providing care for their young children are rising in tandem with caring for elderly relatives who are living longer. Both needs are being met in a unified concept of daycare, as a new outfit, Troy-Johnson Intergenerational Day Care, Inc, 106 Gapway St., Mullins, SC, is now open to provide daycare services for both adults and children, under the same roof.

What started out as Troy-Johnson Learning Korner, a day care facility for children founded and operated by Jackie Troy-Johnson since 1978, making it the first of its kind to open in Marion County, did not add its adult care component until 2002. "It was my brother's idea to look into the adding of a day care program for the elderly. He reminded me of the dilemmas we faced when we were trying to find adequate care for our mother. It all came together some time later, when I happened across a similar type facility in Washington, D.C. in 2002. The wheels started to turn, and soon after, Troy-Johnson Intergenerational,

Inc. was christened." says Mrs. Troy-Johnson.

The facility itself, which sits on two acres of land, is housed in a 5,100 square foot building designed by Mrs. Troy-Johnson herself.

The daycare section is staffed with 25 professionals and employees who provide a range of services for some 90 children, aged from as young as 6 weeks to 13.

Though at present, there were two adults who attend the center, RNs (registered nurse) and CNAs (certified nursing assistants) are already on staff, and stand ready with a range of services and activities to offer- from gardening, music, table games, constitutionals (or walks), to a variety of arts and crafts. The magic happens, though, when the two groups come together to share in reading, story telling, games, and other activities which foster interaction.

"To me, it all harkens back to a time when families were able to maximize upon the rich

experiences of the elders. They would instill in the minds of the young, their own personal wisdoms, through the sharing of their stories and outlooks. The young, in their turn, would validate and enrich the lives of the elders by their curiosity and attentiveness. While I certainly know that what we're embarking upon is not a catch-all answer for every family situation, we, nevertheless, stand ready to provide an alternative route of care, fusing both the needs and nourishment of the young and the elderly, fostering a sense of dignity and value to our older clients, while instilling a sense of purpose, belonging, and what I believe to be sorely needed sense of self and one's place, in our young."

For more information about Troy-Johnson Intergenerational Day Care, Inc., or Troy-Johnson Learning Korner, please contact Jackie Troy-Johnson, at (843) 464-8565.